

# STREET\$1SHEET

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## SFPD FACING PEOPLE IN CRISIS: NO GUN, NO TASER! TALK ‘EM DOWN

by Carol Harvey

On Aug. 1, 2012, following the police shooting of a mentally ill man, San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr, like chiefs before him, attempted for the fourth time in a decade – without public notice – to revive the taser debate.

People in crisis appear to have become the rationale for equipping police officers with so-called “non-lethal” tasers in addition to lethal weapons – guns. Chief Suhr’s argument? To stop police firearm murders, we will use “less-lethal” tasers. His rationale seems based on a law enforcement myth: Guns kill! Tasers save lives!

A Police Commission majority led by Angela Chan, citing the unfulfilled stipulations of a resurrected Feb. 23, 2011, resolution, tabled the taser proposal until the requirements are met.

### Are tasers truly ‘less lethal’?

According to Amnesty International, since 2001, at least 500 people in the U.S. died from taser shocks during arrests – the largest number, 92, in California.

On Aug. 1, 2012, following the police shooting of a mentally ill man, San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr, like chiefs before him, attempted for the fourth time in a decade – without public notice – to revive the taser debate.

During the Aug. 1 Police Commission meeting, Commissioner Petra DeJesus read out Taser International instructions warning against taser use on vulnerable “high risk” populations – “pregnant, infirm, elderly, small child, or low body mass (thin) persons.” Tasers can be

fatal to diabetics, people with heart problems and drug users.

Deetje Boler, San Francisco elder, echoed the convictions of Aug. 12, 2012, Police Commission public commenters: “The name ‘less lethal weapons’ is a misnomer. [Tasers] are more lethal because the assumption is made they are not lethal.”

A cursory survey shows police across America use tasers commonly in low-danger situations or to control mildly non-compliant people, like elderly women or a young girl who wandered into her mother’s arrest.

Concerned citizens acknowledging taser lethality seek to redirect the SFPD from weaponry to a focus on verbal de-escalation techniques, especially appropriate in talking down people in mental health crisis.

### Tasers

Taser International is the main

developer and purveyor of electroshock weapons. Tasers, or CEDs, Conducted Energy Devices, employ a gas cartridge to propel pairs of metal darts or copper prongs similar to cattle prods which penetrate clothes, skin and muscles.

Connected by wires to the taser, the probes administer an electric shock, shooting 50,000 volts, more alternating current than the body can handle. This electrical flooding triggers powerful muscle contractions and nerve blockage with momentary neuromuscular paralysis. The victim collapses in intolerable pain.

### Tasered

In 2004, Mesha Monge-Irizarry, whose son, Idriss Stelley, was shot 48 times by San Francisco police during a mental crisis, allowed herself to be tasered in her Idriss Stelley Foundation office, where she counsels bereaved families and

loved ones of victims disabled or killed by law enforcement.

She underwent the tasing “to know exactly what our clients may be exposed to.”

“They warned me I may curse, faint, and urinate or defecate on myself.” They did not caution her about possible risk from her diabetes.

“Fifty thousand volts shot through my body!” Pierced by the prong in the right thigh, she collapsed on the floor, unable to move, “in unbelievable pain.”

“The pain disappeared after about 10 seconds. Muscle control was regained. My right leg kept twitching off and on for a couple of days.”

She suffered slight bleeding and bruising and a substantial increase in right leg diabetic peripheral neuropathy. One prong shot

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### In Memory of the 171 California Taser Victims, dead at the hands of poorly trained law enforcement officers; killed by the very same “less lethal weapon” Police Chief Greg Suhr is determined to deploy in San Francisco

**1983**  
Aug. 10, Vincent Alvarez, 27, Los Angeles  
**1984**  
Jan. 22, Raul Guevara, Jr. 30, Los Angeles  
**1985**  
Apr. 11, Cornelius Garland Smith, 35, Los Angeles  
Aug. 29, Lannie Stanley McCoy, 35, Los Angeles,  
Dec. 27, Joseph Rodriguez, 24, Santa Clara  
**1986**  
May 9, Anthony Manwell Williams III, 35, Pomona  
May 18, Robert Zapata, 37, Los Angeles,  
Jun. 2, Robert Herbert Bobier, 31, Los Angeles  
Oct. 7, Yale Larry Wilson, 25, Vacaville  
**1987**  
Jul. 22, Miguel Contreras, 27, Los Angeles  
Nov. 2, Mario Antonio Gastelum, 24, San Diego  
Dec. 4, Stewart Alan Vigil, 29, Los Angeles  
**1987**  
Jul. 22, Miguel Contreras, 27, Los Angeles  
Nov. 2, Mario Antonio Gastelum, 24, San Diego  
Dec. 4, Stewart Alan Vigil, 29, Los Angeles  
**1988**  
Jan. 13, William McCall, 39, Los Angeles  
Sept. 10, Edward Breen, 38, Bell-Cudahy  
Sept. 10, Charles Eugene Miles, 37, Los Angeles  
**1989**  
Feb. 14, Jose Torres, 31, Los Angeles  
May 15, Jorge Hernandez, 28, Los Angeles  
May 24, Jeffrey Michel Leonti, 37, Santa Clara  
**1990**  
Feb. 13, Duane J. Johnson, 24, Ventura  
Aug. 13, Glen Gonzalez, 26, Los Angeles  
**1991**  
Apr. 21, Douglas L. Danville, 47, Los Angeles  
Jul. 1, Douglas Charles, 24, Los Angeles  
Nov. 2, Max Leyza Garcia, 40, Fullerton  
Dec. 9, Donnie Ray Ward, 38, Deuel  
**1992**  
Jul. 18, James Ricard, 32, Los Angeles  
Sept. 14, David Martinez, 27, Los Angeles  
**1993**  
Mar. 8, Michael James Bryant, 37, Los Angeles  
**1994**  
Jan. 6, Daniel Scott Gizowski, 25, Los Angeles  
Mar. 18, Ephraim Lewis, 26, Los Angeles  
Apr. 16, Richard Wayne Harris, 32, Los Angeles  
**1995**  
Aug. 18, Bruce Klobuchar, 25, Los Angeles  
**1996**  
Jan. 5, Byron Williams, 36, Los Angeles  
Jun. 8, James Quentin Parkinson, 25, Fairfield  
Jul. 20, Kimberly Lashon Watkins-Oliver, 38, Los Angeles  
Dec. 27, Andrew Hunt Jr., 38, Pomona  
**1997**  
Jul. 6, Garner Roosevelt Hicks Jr., 25, Santa Ana  
**1998**  
Mar. 10, Mark Andrew Brown, 43, Los Angeles  
Sept. 28, David Torres Flores, 37, Fairfield County  
**1999:**  
No Statistics Available for 1999  
**2000**  
May 14, Enrique Juarez Ochoa, 34, Bakersfield  
**2001**  
none reported in California  
**2002**  
Jun. 10, Eddie Alvarado, 32, Los Angeles  
Jun. 27, Fermin Rincon, 24, Fontana  
Jul. 19, Johnny Lozoya, 24, Gardena

**2003**  
May 10, Joshua Hollander, 22, Normal Heights  
Aug. 17, Gordon Rauch, 39, Citrus Heights  
Oct. 7, Roman Pierson, 40, Brea  
**2004**  
Apr. 1, Phillip LeBlanc, 36, Los Angeles  
Aug. 20, Michael Sanders, 40, Fresno  
Aug. 29, Michael Rosa, 38, Del Rey Oaks  
Sept. 15, Andrew Washington, 21, Vallejo  
Nov. 7, Keith Raymond Drum, Clearlake  
Nov. 8, Ricardo Zaragoza, 40, Elk Grove  
Nov. 15, Jesse Robert Tapia, 37, Pomona  
Dec. 22, Jeanne Hamilton, 46, Palmdale  
Dec. 23, Ronnie Pino, 31, Sacramento  
**2005**  
Jan. 2, Gregory Sautsbury, 30, Pacifica,  
Jan. 10, Jerry Moreno, 33, Los Angeles  
Feb. 12, Robert Camba, 45, San Diego  
Feb. 20, Robert Heston, 40, Salinas  
Mar. 6, David Levi Evans Jr., 45, Los Angeles  
Apr. 3, James Wathan Jr., 32, Delhi  
May 17, Leroy Pierson, 55, Rancho Cucamonga  
May 23, Richard Alverado, 38, Tustin  
Jun. 2, Nazario J. Solorio, 38, Escondido  
Jun. 4, Ravan Conston, 33, Sacramento  
Jul. 2, Tommy V. Gutierrez, 38, Sacramento County  
Jul. 8, Raul Jimenez Buenrostro, 29, Fontana  
Jul. 16, Carlos Casillas Fernandez, 31, Santa Rosa  
Jul. 25, Elisio Maldonado, 33, Los Angeles  
Aug. 1, Brian Patrick O’Neal, San Jose  
Aug. 3, Eric Mahoney, 33, Fremont,  
Aug. 4, Dwayne Zachary, 44, Sacramento  
Sept. 18, David Anthony Cross, 44, Santa Cruz  
Sept. 22, Timothy Michael Torres, 24, Sacramento  
Oct. 20, Jose Perez, 33, San Leandro  
Nov. 17, Jose Angel Rios, 38, San Jose  
Dec. 3, Michael Tolosko, 31, Sonoma  
**2006**  
Jan. 5, Matthew Dunlevy, 25, Laguna Beach  
Jan. 25, Jorge Luis Trujillo, San Jose,  
Jan. 31, 2006: Jaime Coronel, Castroville  
Mar. 18, Cedric Davis, 26, Merced County  
May 25, Brian Davis, 43, Los Angeles  
Jun. 10, Vicki Avila, 31, Orange County  
Jun. 24, John Martinez, San Jose  
Jul. 6: Ramiro Garcia, 39, Patterson  
Aug. 2, 2006: Anthony Jones, 39, Merced,  
Aug. 8, James Nunez, 27, Santa Ana  
Sept. 24, Jesus Mejia, 33, Los Angeles  
Nov. 10, Weizhong Wang, Los Angeles County  
Dec. 30, Daniel Walter Quick, 43, Magalia  
**2007**  
Jan. 12, 2007: Pedro Carlos Madrid, 44, Fresno  
Jan. 29, 2007: Michael Keohan, 45, Huntingdon Park  
Feb. 21, 2007: Martin Mendoza, 43, Oceanside  
Mar. 17, David Mendoza, 25, West Covina  
Apr. 11, Roberto Perez, 25, Indio  
Apr. 24, Walter Heller, 55, Santa Rosa  
May 23, Raymundo Guerrero Garcia, 33, Simi Valley  
May 24, Cecil Wayne Valenzuela, 39, Bakersfield  
May 25, Steve Salinas, 47, San Jose  
Jun. 10, Israel Guerrero, 29, San Benito County  
Jul. 2, 2007: Richard Baisner, 36, Pasadena  
Aug. 15, James Wells, 43, Waterford  
Sept. 3, Charles Gordon, 26, Vallejo  
Oct. 12, Michael Patrick Lass, 28, Orange County  
Oct. 28, Randall Mark Blalock, 48, Kern County  
Nov. 30, Cesar Silva, 32, Los Angeles

**2008**  
Feb. 7, Richard Earl Abston, 53, Merced  
Feb. 19, Garrett Sean Farn, 41, Bakersfield,  
Apr. 1, Jason Jesus Gomez, 35, Santa Ana  
Apr. 6, Jose Mendoza-Escobar, 35, Los Angeles County  
Apr. 22, : Uriah Samson Dach, 26, Richmond  
May 28, Ricardo Manuel Abrahams, 42, Woodland  
Jul. 8, Carlos Vargas, 42, San Bernardino  
Jul. 12, Deshoun Keyon Torrence, 18, Long Beach  
Aug. 7, Lawrence Rosenthal, 54, Hemet, California  
Sept. 3, Prince Swayzer, 38, San Jose  
Sept. 3, Andy Tran, 32, Garden Grove  
Sept. 15, : Guadalupe Zavala, 87, San Diego  
Oct. 31, Marlon Oliver Acevedo, 35, Riverside  
Nov. 9, Guy James Fernandez, 42, Santa Rosa  
Dec. 19, Edwin Rodriguez, 26, San Jose  
Dec. 20, Nathan Vaughn, 39, Santa Rosa  
**2009**  
Feb. 2, Garrett Jones, 45, Stockton  
Feb. 14, : Chenard Kierre Winfield, 32, Los Angeles  
Mar. 1, Terry Wayne Jackson, 22, San Bernardino  
Apr. 3, Jermaine Lamonte Love, 35, Montclair  
Apr. 6, : Ricardo Varela, 41, Fresno,  
Apr. 13, Craig Prescott, 38, Modesto  
Jun. 29, Shawn Iinuma, 37, Fontana  
Jul. 2, Rory McKenzie, 25, Bakersfield  
Jul. 5, Raynard Jensen Davis, 41, Los Angeles County  
Jul. 18, Charles Anthony Torrence, 35, Simi Valley  
Jul. 26, Kelly Michael Galindo, 40, San Bernardino  
Jul. 30, Jonathan Michael Nelson, 27, Riverside County  
Aug. 9, Terrace Clifton Smith, 52, Moreno Valley  
Aug. 26, Miguel Molina, 27, Los Angeles  
Aug. 27, Manuel Dante Dent, 27, Modesto  
Sept. 16, Alton Warren Ham, 45, Modesto  
Sept. 28, Gary Kling Jr, 20, Oakland  
Oct. 17, Frank Cleo Sutphin, 19, San Bernardino  
Dec. 11, 2009: Paul Martin Martinez Jr., 36, Roseville  
**2010**  
Jan. 29, Ronald Dennis Palacios, 28, Los Angeles  
Mar. 4, Roberto Olivo, 33, Tulare  
Mar. 19, Albert Valencia, 31, Downey,  
May 29, 20Anastasio Hernandez Rojas, 42, San Ysidro  
Jun. 15, Michael White, 47, Vallejo  
Jun. 22, Daniel Sylvester, 35, Crescent City  
Jul. 5, : Edmund Gutierrez, 22, Imperial  
Aug. 18, Martin Harrison, 50, Dublin  
Sept. 8, Joseph Frank Kennedy, 48, La Mirada  
**2011**  
Feb. 6, Unidentified male, age unknown, Los Angeles  
Mar. 14, Christopher Davis, 36, Los Angeles  
April 9, James Robert Hudson, 34, Whittier  
May 10, Allen Kephart, 43, Twin Peaks,  
Jun. 2, Duane Kevin Chapman, 44, Santa Barbara  
Jul. 5, 2011: Alvarado Flores-Bravo, 46, Marysville  
Jul. 5, 2011: Kelly Thomas, 37, Fullerton  
Aug. 11, Joseph Novoa Lopez, 49, Santa Barbara  
Sept. 13, : Damon Barnett, 44, Fresno County  
Oct. 9, Darnell Hutchinson, 32, San Leandro  
Nov. 15, Jonathan White, 29, San Bernardino  
**2012**  
Jan. 2, Mario Marin, 53, Santa Ana  
Jan. 15, Hualio Serrano, 43, Colton  
Apr. 13, Marland Anderson, 39, Los Angeles  
Apr. 23, Bruce Christensen, 52, Grass Valley  
May 21, Alex Roman Quintanilla, 22, Barstow  
May 31, Randolph Rodas, 35, Merced  
Jun. 10, Jerry Saude, 40, Modesto  
Oct. 5, Scott Everett Wimming, 40, Redding

Research courtesy of Mesha Irizarri, Idriss Stelley Foundation

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# PEACEFUL MOVEMENT, VIOLENT GOVERNMENT

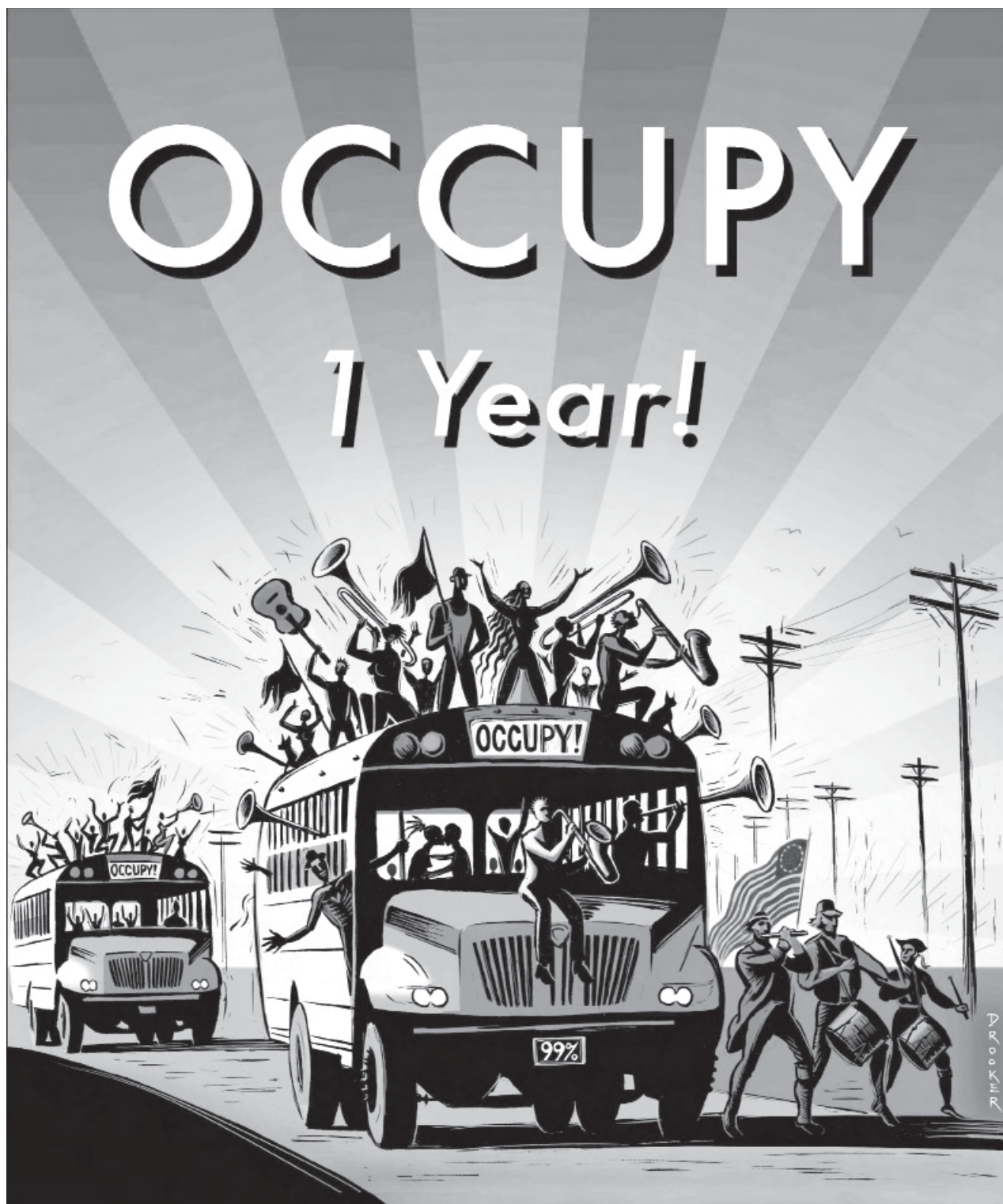
Across the country this autumn, people have taken to the streets to celebrate and reinvigorate the Occupy movement by hosting parties and communal meals to call attention to the increasing economic class disparities and the overwhelming number of Americans in poverty. In San Francisco, our last entrenched protesters were arrested and their property seized. Located at a small campsite in front of the Federal Reserve at 101 Market Street, the campsite had existed for nearly a year since the first Occupy San Francisco actions happened. The police dismantled the camp and arrested 45 protesters, charging them with “illegal lodging,” according to the SF Examiner. Many of those taken to jail were homeless and using the campsite as both a place for expression and a safe place to stay.

Mayor Edwin Lee assured the City that the site was to be maintained as an ongoing expression of free speech. Now, however, he renounces that position and plans to keep the downtown portion of Market Street clear of any areas where homeless

people may be camping. The “sit/lie” ordinance is the Mayor’s primary vehicle of enforcement. It aggressively removes protesters, even though the law allows exemptions for protests. Occupy SF asserts that there are strong political, legal, and social precedents supporting the continued existence of the campsite in front of the Federal Reserve. Mayor Lee and SFPD disagree, citing the campsite as illegal. The fact that many of the individuals living at the encampment were homeless is an obvious reason the campsite was raided. Dismantling informal housing sites constructed by individuals with no other means of shelter is a disturbing trend that is becoming standard policy in San Francisco.

The City is engaged with another encampment in the South of Market area where many homeless people have been living for years. The residents of the camp at 5th and King, now regularly targeted by Caltrans and the City for “clean up”, have no social or political agenda. They are not activists or crusaders.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



**OCCUPY**  
**1 Year!**

**September 17<sup>TH</sup>, 5PM**  
**555 California @ Kearny, SF**  
**Wall Street West**

OccupyActionSF.org

## STREET SHEET EDITORIAL POLICY

The Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco, is made up of homeless and formerly homeless people, representatives of over fifty service, shelter, and housing providers, advocacy groups, and neighborhood and religious organizations. The Coalition’s volunteers and staff, many of whom have been homeless, write most of the articles in the **STREET SHEET**. These appear without a byline. Articles by people who are not COH staff members, or extremely personal articles, usually receive a byline. These articles do not necessarily represent the views of the COH: The **STREET SHEET** aims to provide a forum for voices which are not commonly heard in mainstream media.

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## STREET SHEET VENDING PROJECT

**STREET SHEET** circulation is 32,000 copies monthly; 1,200 are mailed out, 1,000 distributed to shelters, and 29,800 are sold by homeless and poor people on the streets as an alternative to panhandling.

**STREET SHEET** project volunteers work out of the Coalition on Homelessness’ office. Homeless and low-income vendors receive up to 75 papers per day, selling them for one dollar per copy, and keeping 100% of the proceeds.

**STREET SHEET** vendors ARE NOT authorized to collect funds for the Coalition on Homelessness through door-to-door solicitation or any other method.

To support the Coalition on Homelessness financially, or to purchase a subscription, contact the Coalition directly:

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**Websites:**  
<http://streetsheetsf.wordpress.com>  
[www.cohsf.org](http://www.cohsf.org)

**Thank you.**

## COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS MEETINGS

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach. The information gathered directly drives the Coalition’s work: We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people—they bring their agenda to us. Our advocacy agenda is primarily designed by the Coalition workgroups, which involve and strengthen collaboration between homeless people, concerned community members, and providers of social, health care, housing, employment, and legal services, to systematically address needs identified in outreach.

To learn more about COH workgroup meetings, please contact us at 415.346.3740.

### MEETINGS

**Housing Justice Workgroup**  
Every Tuesday at 12 noon

**Human Rights Workgroup**  
Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

**STREET SHEET**  
**New Vendor Orientation**  
Every Friday at 10:00 a.m..

*All meetings are at 468 Turk Street  
Between Larkin and Hyde*

## NO TASERS FOR SFPD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in her right hip caused permanent sciatic nerve and conjunctive tissue damage between her right femur and pelvic bone. She walks slowly with a cane.

As they left, “these idiots said, ‘You have balls for a woman.’” She imagined “victims repeatedly tased to unconsciousness or death.”

### San Francisco's taser history

Both Mesha Irizarry and MaryKate Connor, executive director of the now de-funded Caduceus Outreach Services, report that the problem of psychiatrically ill San Franciscans being killed by SFPD during crisis situations was first addressed in 1995-96 by concerned advocates and providers.

Connor wrote that in 1997, plans were first presented to the San Francisco Police Commission for teams of officers to receive extensive – 40 hours – specialized training “to be available to respond to any ‘800 calls’ (police dispatch code for responding to a disturbed person), to authorize them to take the lead in psychiatric crisis situations, and to have these officers volunteer for this specialized position to ensure they have the interest and empathy needed for this specialized role.”

Shortly afterward, Connor heard an NPR series about an increase in fatal encounters between police and people “behaving bizarrely.” NPR highlighted the Memphis, Tenn., program founded by police Lt. Sam Cochran. “To my surprise I learned our program and the Memphis program were identical.” But the SFPD claimed no funds and put the program on hold.

Irizarry is adamant: “Non-lethal weapons are not a ‘new idea.’ They were defeated three times in the past.” In 2004, 2008 and 2011, following public outcry after police shootings of San Franciscans, the SFPD had again promoted “less lethal” tasers.

Each time citizen groups rejected lethal and non-lethal weapons, pushing instead for the “Memphis model,” which relies on verbally de-escalating people in crisis. New SFPD chiefs sent officers, mental health professionals and advocates to Memphis to “study” verbal de-escalation techniques.

Now, in October-November 2012, SFPD Chief Greg Suhr and the Police Commission are holding six community forums, three on the non-lethality of tasers and three on use of force.

### SFPD WILL COVER TWO TOPICS:

#### Why SFPD again wants tasers.

“Potential Implementation Plan” language describing how officers would use tasers once allowed to procure them.

#### *The public will comment.*

#### Why Crisis Intervention Teams work

Warns MaryKate Connor, mistakes are made when uniformed police, bearing weapons with state authority to kill you, escalate the situation. Police shouting orders at people in crisis that scare more than comfort them escalates terror reactions that block commands.

Police undergo training to grasp a situation with “command and control” tactics, including force, up to and including lethality. Combine command and control with the deeply embedded mental illness stigma – unconscious or conscious fear, disdain, dislike, disregard – and, though other options exist, police shoot mentally ill people in crisis.

Connor believes people with psychiatric disabilities are generally not valued nor liked. Nowhere is that more evident than in the police response to them. “What happens to people

who are in public crisis who are perceived to be ‘crazy’ is criminal. They get killed for needing help,” she said.

Mental Health Association Associate Director Michael Gause concurs. The focus of the MHA is around reducing the stigma – the bias and prejudice people with mental health conditions face.

A mental health professional can use verbal de-escalation and not get stabbed because he is not:

- Wearing a uniform,
- Carrying a weapon, or
- In a power struggle with the person in crisis.

The difference between the police and mental health response is the professional approach, Connor explains:

Mental health workers’ approach is to discover who the sufferer is and why they are so upset.

Police are trained to see something out of the ordinary as suspicious and potentially criminal, requiring “control of the subject.” As a paramilitary organization, police are conditioned to one approach – command of someone losing his mind “out of control” in public.

As with mental health workers, Connor notes, officers choosing to be on a specialized Crisis Intervention Team may be motivated by special life experience with mental illness. Such officers won’t view people in crises as just an “EDP” (Emotionally Disturbed Person), “an 800 call,” or someone “BB” behaving bizarrely. As in the way the mental health worker views the sufferer, the officer will see the individual as a whole person.

Observes Connor, the biggest difference between the Memphis police and elsewhere is that not only are they a special status team with sensitization training, but

- Team members are volunteers, motivated not by slightly more pay, but by concern for people in crisis.
- “Brass from the chief down authorize and support it.”
- “Authority is given to the officers to make this work.”

Connor emphasizes that unless the brass both authorize and support this shift completely, like the founder and developer of the Memphis program, Lt. Sam Cochran, none of it will happen.

In February of 2011, when George Gascon was chief, he brought Lt. Sam Cochran and Andy Devine from Memphis. They gave presentations to the SFPD and the Police Commission. Gascon said: “Not only do I want special officers trained. We need to have everybody trained in this technique.” They sent people to Memphis – among them MHA’s Michael Gause.

During the time the original police crisis intervention program was developed and funded, there were three police chiefs in San Francisco. No one carries this on to the next police administration, observes Connor in frustration. The same issues and crises repeatedly surface. People continue being shot.

How do you make this cultural shift? Says Connor, “Tactically speaking, if Memphis and San Francisco create the same good solutions – not a giant sticky net or a mass tranquilliser gun – with the authorization and authority to make a shift in attitude and culture that allows behavioral change, the Crisis Intervention Team model could work.”

Michael Gause asserts that the Mental Health Association supports CIT principles, verbal de-

escalation techniques. “We also support police intention to reduce risk to individuals with mental health conditions,” he added.

CIT – Crisis Intervention Team training – is an internationally recognized best practice. “It works,” said Gause.

### CIT trainings

Gause worked beside veterans’ advocates, case managers and psychiatric emergency experts in developing the CIT training course outline which is focused on crisis behaviors and covers a full spectrum of topics such as suicides, PTSD, and veterans’ issues.

He reported that Cmdr. Mikael Ali and several organizations, including the Mental Health Association, organized three CIT trainings.

The last four-day, 40-hour training was in June 2012. Another training is coming up Oct. 22-25.

### Six police community forums on “less lethal weapons”

Monday, Oct. 22, 6 p.m., Hamilton Center, 1900 Geary Blvd at Steiner: A Community Meeting on Less Than Lethal Weapons and Updated Taser Information. A subcommittee of the Commission, composed of Commissioners Angela Chan, Julius Turman and Judith Loftus, will meet with Chief Suhr and the public

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 6 p.m., Scottish Rite Cultural Center, 2850 19th Ave. near Stern Grove: Use of Force Discussion

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m., Downtown High School, 693 Vermont St., Potrero Hill: Use of Force Discussion

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m., South of Market Recreation Center Auditorium, 270 Sixth St.: Special Session on Tasers. Note this Police Commission meeting will not be held at Room 400, City Hall; it is a neighborhood meeting in the Southern District. Public comment will be heard, and Southern Station Acting Capt. Steven Balma will make a presentation concerning Southern District public protection issues. Tasers may be subsumed under “public protections.”

Wednesdays, Oct. 24 and Nov. 7, 6 p.m., Room 400, City Hall: Use of Force Discussion

**Carol Harvey is a San Francisco political journalist specializing in human rights and civil rights. She can be reached at [carolharveysf@yahoo.com](mailto:carolharveysf@yahoo.com).**



**Former Los Gatos resident Scott Wininger, CA's latest TASER victim. Wininger died the morning of Friday, Oct. 5, 2012 following an altercation with Redding police officers**

OCCUPY'S 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
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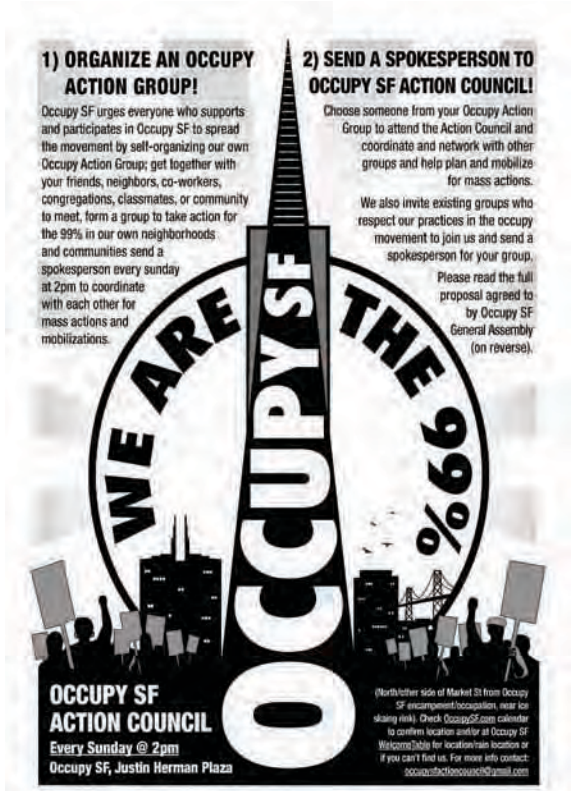
Indeed the camp was created for the sole purpose of housing. The City makes clear its unwritten policy that homeless and low-income people can only live in designated neighborhoods in San Francisco. They have to live where they're told to live or face forced removal and the loss of their personal property

Several weeks before 101 Market was raided, a large group of supporters celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Occupy Wall Street's inception. The day started with a rally in the Castro protesting Sterling Bank's foreclosures in the Bay Area. Afterwards, they marched down Market to the financial district. Performances, speeches, and chants echoed

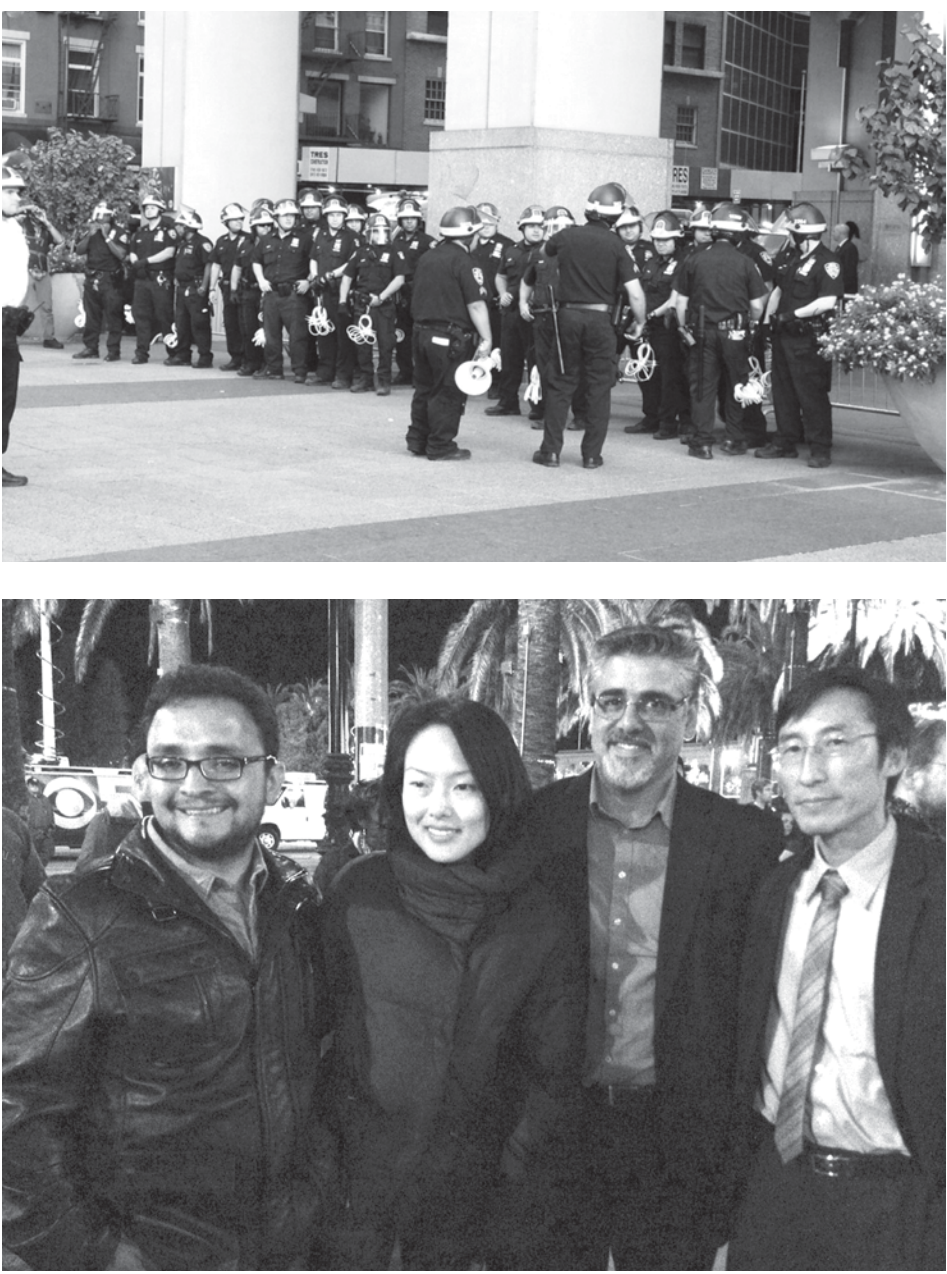
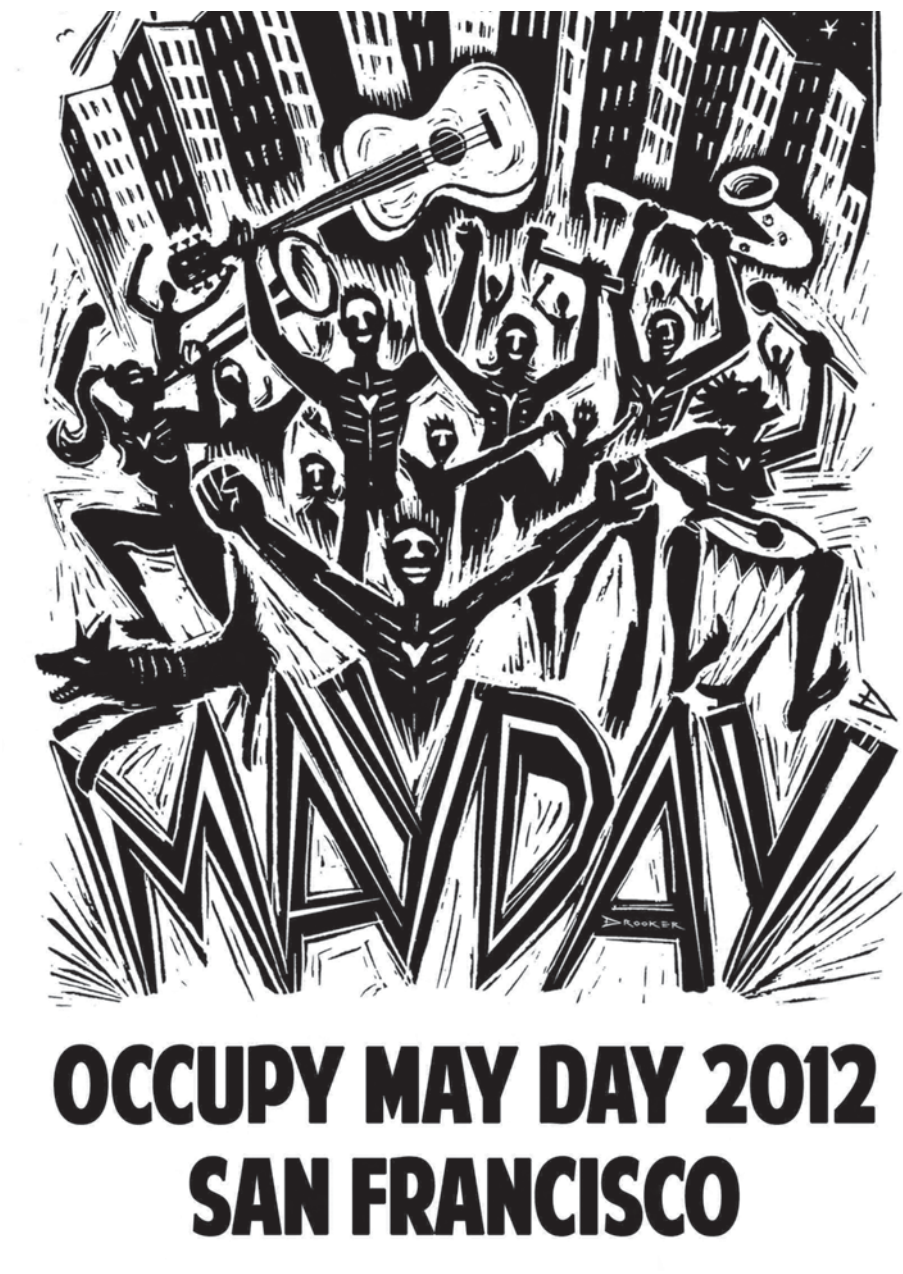
throughout the narrow streets. Most messaging was directed at the inequities inherent in a capitalist economy and the favoritism given to the big banks and other financial institutions and wealthy corporations that occupy most of the surrounding high rises. There were no altercations with SFPD and the atmosphere of festivity was maintained with a large free, communal meal provided to the participants. To finish the night, participants who chose to, viewed a movie documenting the history of the Occupy movement, both the exuberant and the turbulent.

The Occupy movement started on September 17<sup>th</sup> in New York City when a large group of protesters decided to entrench themselves Zuccotti Park in

the heart of Wall Street . This spontaneous expression of disgust for the cronyism and illegal activities dominating the financial sector sparked a worldwide phenomenon. People gathered to protest here in the United States and abroad, Not surprisingly, governments generally responded to peaceful protests with force and blatant disregard for the rights of the protesters, Occupy Oakland, a site of major violent collisions of protesters and police forces, also celebrated their one-year occupation of Oscar Grant Plaza this past week with another free meal for activists and sympathizers alike; another opportunity to shine the spotlight on the fundamental flaws in the American economic system. As they have been all along, this too was a peaceful gathering.



OCCUPY SF IMAGES FROM THE PAST YEAR.



# IDEOLOGIES AND INSANITY

BY WILLIAM MORDER

On the 5th of February, 1897, the Indiana General Assembly voted unanimously to square the circle. They were, in effect, redefining  $\pi$  in more “rational” terms, apparently having decided on a value of 3.2 — in one stroke eliminating those endless messy decimals. The head of Purdue University’s mathematics department happened to be there that very day, and was able to give senators a quick, much-needed lesson. In the end, legislators decided that they did not have the power to determine mathematical truth, so the bill died before it ever became law.

A few centuries earlier, representatives of the Vatican, when invited to look through that new-fangled invention, the telescope, politely declined, because everything known about the universe could be found in the Bible and Aristotle, and no illusory shadows on the surface of the moon were going to convince them otherwise. Many of Pope Urban VIII’s advisors privately accepted these discoveries, but had not been able to accommodate the new world view to Catholic teachings. The Church eventually forced Galileo publicly to recant his views, and he spent the rest of his life under house arrest.

Despite the trouble it had caused, our earth stubbornly continued to orbit round the sun, as always, like any other planet. Religious faith was not destroyed as a result of this controversy; nor did scientific progress come to a halt due to the Church’s opposition. The sky was blue, grass was green, and people still spoke poetically, if unscientifically, of sunrise and sunset. Furthermore, the circumference of a circle in relation to its diameter, during this same period of time, remained constant, regardless of whether anybody knew the correct ratio.

Wherever ideological insanity is allowed to propagate itself in some form, without correction or effective opposition, it spreads like cancer, and often seems unstoppable and incurable. When one

group holds onto political and economic power for too long, their ideas inevitably get distorted.

Our Founding Fathers laid down some sound principles, to be sure, but they were wrong about other things. They were landowners who got rich by dispossessing indigenous peoples of their homes. They recognized that cheap labor would cut production costs on their estates, and boost productivity, so they took to importing slaves. They denied over half their fellow citizens (women) the right to vote, and started a war of territorial expansion against Mexico. Little wonder, then, that we argued, failed to resolve our differences, and plunged into a civil war.

We need to reinvent the essential principles of our uniquely American democracy, yes; but also, to discard those elements which have petrified into meaningless dogma. Not many men would deny women the right to vote — that is surely a losing hand — yet some would deny other people, for other reasons, that right.

Ideological insanity is not limited to any one group or philosophy. Left or right, rich or poor, we are all equally susceptible to delusion, whenever we attempt to force reality fit our abstract theories, rather than adapting our theories to the reality of concrete experience.

Russian scientific research was set back for decades due to the half-baked theories espoused by Trofim Lysenko, who used his political influence to persecute enemies and suppress experimental results which contradicted the views officially endorsed by the Party.

Government should not be concerned with defining reality, but only with preventing real harm. If two people want to get married, for example, what business is that of anybody else? Up until the 1960s, many states outlawed interracial marriages; now the main concern is to preserve the sanctity of marriage by prohibiting gay men and women from get-

ting married at all. Time and again, laws get passed which try to make the irrational, messy business of love and relationships into a tidy affair that will not raise any eyebrows.

Global warming, too, though verified by every reputable climate scientist on the planet, is opposed by many politicians and their corporate bosses. If they were not blinded by their own interests, then perhaps they could be made to recognize that not even a massive smear campaign, nor the best experts that money can buy, will be able to change the laws of nature. We are fast approaching a point of no return, beyond which lies certain catastrophe.

Everywhere our own government is infected by new type of Lysenkoism. Elected officials and corporate interests meddle with public schools and universities, and threaten the funding of scientists who are only trying, honestly and sincerely, to save us from ourselves.

I do not know much about economics, but I was once a schoolboy. A free market, if I recall, is governed by the law of supply and demand. Now, there are twice as many vacant apartments in this city as there are homeless people; not even counting marginal places, abandoned and neglected for decades, which would benefit by renovation and repair. Therefore, rents ought to be dirt cheap.

Where do we find the money for these grand projects? Well, when we put people into their own homes, allow them to live like real human beings, with simple dignity; when we create work for them (such as renovating old houses, or repairing our nation’s infrastructure): then we will get the economy going again.

We need to borrow some ideas of FDR’s playbook. The New Deal and the Civilian Conservation Corps lifted us out of the Great Depression. We would have to adapt some of those ideas to the present day, of course, but it worked once, and it would work again.

## WHERE THE F\*CK ARE OUR POSSESSIONS?!!! BY IAN SMITH

It should be as simple as asking “Is this yours? Can you please separate what you want to keep from things you don’t?” Then leave the separated obviously OWNED possessions we want to keep the hell alone! In no other part of our American society, besides debt collection, can people come into your life with “a job to do”, tell you what to do with your time, your possessions and your home, and trash almost anything they lay their hands on (some acting as if they feel for us, others genuinely do within both Caltrans and DPW work crews). As of October 9<sup>th</sup>’s (posted) raid they came fast, hard, wielding threats of pressing charges with police implying our imminent arrest if we resisted in any way, shape or form their systematic tossing of our possessions, even, unbelievably including a few crates of stored up food for the entire encampment, an act I witnessed myself and tried to capture on film. Perfectly good food, boxes of it, thrown to a ever-backward moving garbage truck. What could we do?

Most of us were prepared, our possessions mobile and guarded by friends though there seems to be a disturbing trend of a few, despite warnings, postings and advice to gather their things, who lose everything they own, EVERYTHING, to a cold, smelly, air-polluting machine fed by the orders of people who do not care about anyone until election time. You want the truth? They are moving us right in front of your faces like a bright red ribbon, its bright flutter and pattern distracting you from integral issues, things that truly matter in our fair city their kind

sneak out the door right behind you as you say to yourself, “Wow. Cool. Really this ribbon is all I really need to pay attention to.” If you look, you will find a disturbing pattern in our electoral process. The candidates do not want you to ever know what the real issues are, what they may be mucking up and about, and what they don’t Ever want to talk about. You doubt me? Take a little time and for farts and giggles do a little digging. You will be surprised what you find.)

One day Forrest Last, a resident of The Fifth and King encampment located under I-280 on-ramp on king St went about his business as usual, frequenting the library, accomplishing chores and after visiting a friend returned to his area to find....nothing!

His tent, clothes, computer, books, toiletries, food, sleeping bag, EVERYTHING HE OWNED, was nowhere to be seen. He had his food card, birth certificate, medical records, pictures, journals, and jewelry family had bequeathed him all in his locked up tent. Forrest did not hesitate to find out where DPW may have taken his possessions and was directed to go to the DPW yard on Cesar Chavez Blvd.

I decided on accompanying him that day, mostly to satisfy my curiosity as to whether or not they really do “Tag and Bag” any of our possessions. Mind you, this was after Caltrans told us DPW handled all the removed items. That should translate, if everything was on the up-and-up, to Forrest’s overly organized small tent and all of the objects inside being stored in some

form of secure containment facility, perfectly catalogued, somewhere in the Chavez DPW facility. Unfortunately, and I do not know if they purposely constructed this “system” to directly irritate the citizens they prey on, but that would be drawing a reasonable and logical conclusion as to what course of action is needed to rectify an already- way- beyond annoying and needless waste of everyone’s time and energy. Apparently logic wasn’t a key ingredient in the recipe for their “system”.

Forrest and I not only walked all the way there in some of the hottest weather we have seen this year, but, the DPW signs posted for the purpose of directing you to where you have to enter the yard directly contradict and confuse even the most astute of visitors. Oh, and get this; when asked, their own employees could not give us a definitive answer to the most basic of questions, one you would imagine being asked specifically in one form or another; “Where can we pick up my friends belongings?” To make the story short, eventually after three times around the perimeter with still no answers,

I knock quite hard on a random door and a polite and well spoken young woman allowed us entry and contacted a worker from the yard who was to meet us once again on the complete opposite end of the yard near the security booth. A half hour later a kind gentleman drives up, asks for a description of Forrest’s items, and disappears for another half-hour. Once again, long story short, not only did they not have Forrest’s

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**POSSESSIONS  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

stuff, our new DPW friend lets slip the fact that nobody's taken items had made it to Chavez, nothing was logged as coming from Fifth and King. He even tried to wiggle his company away from any potential blame like any loyal employee should, but even he gave up after a few minutes and agreed that this was a messed up situation to have allowed happen.

Alas, that is what bureaucracies seem to do. DPW blames Caltrans, Caltrans blames DPW, and during this time people who have very little to lose in the first place are allowed to feel the frustration of it all. Yet it took three weeks and a newspaper article brought to our attention by a Salvation Army employee, who happens to be good friends with the majority of us, wondering why we had not spoke of the DPW yard located near the border of Daly City. Truth be told, we had never heard of it. I'm pretty sure I can speak for us all. We sure as hell never heard of the place until then. So another place to seek out and tackle.

To my surprise every time I asked someone where and how to approach the other DPW yard the same answer would form on yet another persons lips. "Why Bother?" Every person who was there one of the days they attempted to move us will say almost the same exact statement. "We were all there. We all saw them throw every thing into the compactor truck. You know they didn't try to save a damn thing except for items they could claim (JACK) for themselves. We've witnessed it without embarrassment right there a few feet away. (We do actually find a lot of nifty, original, or unusual things. Like my Mom said occasionally, " You see? That's why we can't have nice things!"

Essentially you are in a position where if you come up a little in the world, unless you carry it around with you constantly, you might as well drop it back where you found it. In many ways, that is the truth that's been created. MY question to the powers that be is why? I understand having to deal with pack-rats, outdoor hoarders, junk sprawls and other man made disasters on a regular basis will direct your frame of mind

toward a want for any solution just so you don't have to worry about it anymore. Better yet, allow me to present this simple question, "If I am not a part of that particular problem then why in God's name am I and people with similar views of personal responsibility (i.e. – cleaning up areas of stay and leaving as little trace as possible if you are nomadic or keeping a long term area reasonably clean. "Reasonably depending on the amount of outside trash collecting in this windy city of ours. Hmm:/") Why in the world should we be pooled in with those who are? Why when some of us live the majority of our lives responsibly, differently granted, but responsibly, are we being treated like criminals by some officials? Even to the point of family pets being lost due to interference by over- zealous, presumably over-worked police officers.

The majority of the officers whose acquaintance I've made do not want to harass us at all but would rather be paying a social call. I have personally met more police officers sitting in my area of stay reading a book than I can recall names. I do believe the majority of them are just people under orders of people higher then them in a chain. I am reasonably decent at reading peoples behavior and by just wanting to have one month without feeling like I've pissed off the police, why do I suffer in a line filled with acknowledged abusers of the system.

Some people want to stay outdoors. They will probably never live indoors for a major period of time again in their life. There are some of us with work ethics and a desire to improve ourselves regardless of where we lay our head. Don't judge too readily. Most of us used to own houses and cars, we were neighbors who were successful at their goals until either circumstance or conditions whatever they may be changed that. You will find once outside this society for even a bit, for most there is no easy way back. So from myself and the hearts of those I spoke with ahead of time- Thank You for Your Kindness.

Don't put up with the B.S., but at least try to identify those who mean no harm and are good people. Life can be hard enough on everyone. And will you please quit throwing our possessions away. If its not yours and its not you leave it alone and go in peace.

# PLANNED AND UNPLANNED UNEMPLOYMENT

## An Essay

**by: Geoffrey Mar X Houston  
Oakland, CA**

Let's get one thing straight. Homelessness is caused by lack of jobs and lack of housing. It is not necessarily a drug/alcohol problem or any other kind of mental health problem. A certain amount of unemployment (and by extension, homelessness), is deliberately engineered to keep wages down. This is vis-a vis supply and demand for labor. The employers seek to ensure that the number of people seeking work is in excess of the number of jobs available. In terms of the law of supply and demand for labor, this keeps the supply for labor above the demand and therefor reduces the price for labor (wages).

Inversely, housing units are made deliberately scarce in order, again by law of supply and demand to increase rents. Everyone knows how difficult employment and housing are to secure. It is important to know that it is planned that way.

New housing starts are one of the leading economic indicators. Workers (construction workers for example) do not get paid for the full value of their labor in any event, independent of the wage-reducing effect of planned unemployment. Unemployment can spiral out of control with crises of over-production...the inability of workers to purchase enough commodities so keep the economy running smoothly. Recession and depression results from crises of over-production.

The various forms of unemployment insurance, General Assistance, Aid to Families and Children, Supplemental Security Income, etc., in fact constitute a tax rebate. Tax is what the slave master takes from the slave, what the feudal Baron takes from the serf and what industrial – commercial management (and security) extract from labor. The different forms of unemployment insurance (G.A., A.F.D.C., S.S.I., etc.) represent resources conceded to the working classes from the ruling classes. Indeed, the various forms of unemployment insurance, in that they have an upward pressure on wages in relation to prices and thus a decrease in exploitation, are a tax reduction. (Technically taxation is the extraction of surplus labor value).



**IAN SMITH AT THE 5TH AND KING STREET CAMP**

A LETTER FROM A FAMILY IN NEW ENGLAND TO A MISSING LOVED ONE IN SAN FRANCISCO:

Hi Beaux K., Happy Birthday!!

We miss you so much and want you to know how much. We live so far away so we are sending one of us to San Francisco to see you for Thanksgiving. One of us will be there November 19th to 28th, 2012 and You are invited to Thanksgiving Dinner!

But we do not know your address! We made an email address just for this so you can respond and we can arrange a meeting place; SFwithBeaux@gmail.com

A lot has happened since we last saw you. You have a new nephew, Max and a new niece, Dylan Marie. Mom is moving and wants you to come visit her soon at her new address.

If anyone knows Beaux K. and can get this message to him please help us find him by giving this to him. You can send us information at SFwithBeaux@gmail.com if you know how to contact him.

We cannot wait to see you!

Love to Beaux K.  
from Mom, Family, Sisters and Friends on the East Coast.

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Please contact Ken at 346.3740 or  
kdotson@cohsf.org.  
Thank you!

We appreciate all generosity

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We know we have some pretty awesome vendors out there. We could use your help to recognize them.

Call the editor and nominate the Lady or Gentleman you purchased your **STREET SHEET** from as the next **Vendor of the Month**

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415-346-3740 ext. 309  
Or by E-mail at:  
kdotson@cohsf.org

Or if you're in the area, drop by 468 Turk, Between Larkin and Hyde and ask for Ken

SHELTER MONITORING  
COMMITTEE  
SCHEDULE

Bring your concerns and recommendations about the shelters to the Shelter Monitoring Committee monthly meetings:

October 17, 2012, 10 a.m.

November 14, 2012, 10 a.m.

City Hall, Room 408

You can leave a confidential message about any shelter issues at 415.255.3642. You may call this number collect.

Tell us both compliments and complaints.

Help us improve  
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A PAES CLIENT ADVOCATE MAY HELP YOU!

If you and your worker can't agree on your employment plan or services you need to get a job, call or visit the Bay Area Legal Aid's Client Advocate at the GAAP office:

Sabrina Barnes  
276 Golden Gate at Hyde  
415.928.2544

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9-noon, 1:30-4

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Does your school, professional organization, congregation, or club want to learn more about the real issues behind homelessness?

- Why are there so many homeless people in San Francisco?
- Why does the problem seem so intractable?
- What needs to happen for this situation to change?

The Coalition on Homelessness would welcome the opportunity to speak to you and provide accurate, documented information about homelessness.

Please contact us at:  
415.346.3740  
or e-mail your request to:  
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Why waste your weekend on a garage sale when you can **DONATE**:

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to **COMMUNITY THRIFT** at **623 VALENCIA**. Please be sure to designate **COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS, ACCOUNT #205** as the beneficiary. All donations must be boxed or bagged. You can call Community Thrift at 861.4910 to ensure your donations will be accepted at the drop-off site at Sycamore Street. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

# HELP SUPPORT THE STREET SHEET

When we began publishing the **STREET SHEET** in 1989, we never imagined that homelessness would remain prevalent in our community, or that the response from City officials and the mainstream media would be so punitive. Our reasons for publishing the paper are the same today as they were at the inception of the project: The need still exists for perspectives on homelessness and poverty that go beyond the simplifications that appear in most news sources.

In order to maintain an independent voice, the **STREET SHEET** and the Coalition on Homelessness’ other projects are not supported by government or corporate interests—We depend on the continuing support of individuals like *you* who believe that the work of creating solutions to homelessness matters.

The easiest way that you can help provide long-term support for this work is by becoming a sustainer: giving a small amount every month, every quarter, or twice a year.

- Making a sustaining pledge is easy: After you set up a pledge with us, we can electronically bill you or charge your credit card as often as you choose.
- Making a pledge is affordable: Ten or twenty dollars a month is affordable for most budgets—that’s only \$5 to \$10 per paycheck! But those smaller gifts add up to a very meaningful contribution over a year’s time.

For a \$50 pledge, you can become an underwriter of the **STREET SHEET**. Your support:

- Provides critical information on available services, programs, changes, and policy developments that affect homeless people.
- Remains the primary vehicle for San Francisco’s homeless people to voice their concerns, opinions, and stories to 32,000 readers monthly.
- Provides over 230 extremely poor vendors the opportunity to earn money for food, shelter, and other necessities every month.

Together, through monthly contributions to the Coalition’s work, sustainers are helping to make the important work described above possible. Please become a part of this grassroots effort today.

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- I want to support the Coalition and the **STREET SHEET** at \$ \_\_\_\_ / month for \_\_\_\_ months  
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Mail to: Coalition on Homelessness 468 Turk Street San Francisco, CA 94102

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